

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of compensating an operator of ~~a~~ an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of using the defibrillator for the benefit of another party, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a pre-determined monetary amount from the operator;
maintaining a contractual relationship with the operator for a period of time in exchange for the pre-determined monetary amount; ~~and the contractual relationship including a requirement to reimburse~~ reimbursing the operator for at least a portion of the expenses incurred as a result of using the defibrillator for the benefit of the other party if the external defibrillator is used during the period of time.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining step comprises maintaining contractual relationships with a plurality of operators.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of allocating the expenses across the plurality of operators.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step is executed upon purchase of the defibrillator.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the receiving step is executed at a regular interval corresponding to the period of time.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the regular interval further corresponds to a period of contract for maintenance of the defibrillator.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is annually.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is monthly.
9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the receiving step is executed in conjunction with receipt of a lease payment.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of requesting compensation for the reimbursement provided in the re-imbursing step from ~~a patient~~ the other party.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the period of time continues in perpetuity.
12. (Currently amended) A method of insuring against costs associated with external defibrillator use the method comprising:
 - establishing contractual relationships with a plurality of external defibrillator operators, each contractual relationship comprising a period of time;
 - receiving premium payments from each of the external defibrillator operators; and
 - providing reimbursement to one of the plurality of external defibrillator operators for the costs associated with external defibrillator use in response to another party undergoing a medical emergency if a defibrillator event occurs during the period of time.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of seeking compensation for the reimbursement from ~~a patient~~ the other party.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of seeking compensation for the reimbursement from an insurance carrier associated with the ~~patient~~ other party.

15. (Currently amended) A computing system for compensating an owner of a an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of using the external defibrillator on another person, the system comprising:

means for receiving a pre-determined monetary amount from the owner; means for maintaining a contractual relationship with the owner for a period of time in exchange for the monetary amount; and

means for compensating the owner for the expenses incurred as a result of using the external defibrillator on the other person if the device is used during the period of time.

16. (Currently amended) A data processing system for insuring against costs associated with external defibrillator use, the method comprising:

first computing means for maintaining contractual relationships with a plurality of external defibrillator operators, each contractual relationship comprising a period of time;

second computing means for receiving premium payments from each of the external defibrillator operators; and

third computing means for providing reimbursement to one of the plurality of external defibrillator operators for the costs associated with external defibrillator use if a defibrillator event occurs during the period of time.